AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method executed in a computer system for automatically tracking hardware and software platform usage for a plurality of program executions on a plurality of hardware and software platforms comprising:

enabling collection of one or more records of hardware and software platform information prior to execution of each of said plurality of programs;

executing each of said plurality of programs;

recording, in a central data storage device in response to said enabling, one or more records of hardware and software platform information for a said plurality of program executions; and

assessing, in accordance with at least one predetermined criteria, at least one of hardware and software platform usage using said one or more records of hardware and software platform information from said plurality of program executions.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein each of said one or more records of hardware and software platform information includes software component data and system configuration data.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said system configuration data includes hardware data and software settings describing an environment of a computer system in which a program is executed.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein at least a first portion of the software component data corresponds to a software component that is a shared library.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the shared library is one of a dynamic link library and [[an ActiveX Control]] a control library.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the system configuration information includes data describing at least one of: a number of processors in a particular platform, a system name, an indicator as to a hardware processor type, an operating system identifier, an amount of physical memory, and an identifier for each program execution associated with said system configuration information being described.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further including performing one or more routine calls using a function provided by an operating system to gather a portion of at least one of the records of hardware and software platform information.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

obtaining software component data using an event reporting mechanism that reports information to a monitor process.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including:

linking a program to be tested to include monitoring; and

reporting software component data at runtime to a monitor process by monitoring predetermined calls made from a portion of a program being executed.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the calls being monitored are in user supplied code.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the program being executed includes a software component directly invoked from a portion of user supplied code.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the program being executed includes at least one software component that is not directly invoked from a portion of user supplied code.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein a plurality of hardware and software platforms are associated with said plurality of program executions, and the method further including:

recording, for each of said plurality of hardware and software platforms, software component data associated with each software component included in said each hardware and software platform, said software component data includes information uniquely identifying said each software component.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said software component data includes at least one of a module name, a link date, a file version, a file size, and a product version.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said software component information includes data indicating one or more of said plurality of program executions that are associated with a first software component corresponding to said software component information.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further including:

forming a set union of said one or more records of hardware and software platform information to identify each unique platform.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein each of said one or more records of hardware and software platform information includes software component data and system configuration data, and the method further includes:

forming an initial union set that includes a first record of hardware and software platform information;

determining for a second record of hardware and software platform information if there are differences in system configuration data associated with said first and second records of hardware and software platform information;

determining for said second record of hardware and software platform information if there are differences in software component data associated with said first and second records of hardware and software platform information; and

adding said second record of hardware and software platform information to said initial union set if any differences are determined in system configuration data or software component data.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein determining differences in software component data includes:

determining differences in named software modules associated with said first and second records of hardware and software platform information; and

determining differences in attributes of a first named software module included in said first and said second records of hardware and software platform information.

19-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for automatically tracking hardware and software platform usage for a plurality of program executions on a plurality of hardware and software platforms comprising:

machine executable code for enabling collection of one or more records of hardware and software platform information prior to execution of each of said plurality of programs;

machine executable code for executing each of said plurality of programs;

machine executable code for recording, in a central data storage device in response to said machine executable code for enabling, one or more records of hardware and software platform information for a said plurality of program executions; and

machine executable code for assessing, in accordance with at least one predetermined criteria, at least one of hardware and software platform usage using said one or more records of hardware and software platform information from said plurality of program executions.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein each of said one or more records of hardware and software platform information includes software component data and system configuration data.

31. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein said system configuration data includes hardware data and software settings describing an environment of a computer system in which a program is executed.

32. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein at least a first portion of the software component data corresponds to a software component that is a shared library.

33. (Original)The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein said system configuration information includes data describing at least one of: a number of processors in a particular platform, a system name, an indicator as to a hardware processor type, an operating system identifier, an amount of physical memory, and an identifier for each program execution associated with said system configuration information being described.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 29, further including machine executable code for performing one or more routine calls using a function provided by an operating system to gather a portion of at least one of the records of hardware and software platform information.

35. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 29 further comprising:

machine executable code for obtaining software component data using an event reporting mechanism that reports information to a monitor process.

36. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 29, further including:

machine executable code for linking a program to be tested to include monitoring; and

machine executable code for reporting software component data at runtime to a monitor process by monitoring predetermined calls made from a portion of a program being executed.

37. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 36, wherein the calls being monitored are in user supplied code.

38. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 37, wherein the program being executed includes a software component directly invoked from a portion of user supplied code.

39. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 37, wherein the program being executed includes at least one software component that is not directly invoked from a portion of user supplied code.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein a plurality of hardware and software platforms are associated with said plurality of executions, and the computer program product further including:

machine executable code for recording, for each of said plurality of hardware and software platforms, software component data associated with each software component included in said each hardware and software platform, said software component data includes information uniquely identifying said each software component.

41. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 40, wherein said software component data includes at least one of a module name, a link date, a file version, and a product version.

42. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 40, wherein said software component information includes data indicating one or more of said plurality of program executions that are associated with a first software component corresponding to said software component information.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 29, further comprising:

machine executable code for forming a set union of said one or more records of hardware and software platform information to identify each unique platform.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 43, wherein each of said one or more records of hardware and software platform information includes software component data and system configuration data, and the computer program product further includes:

machine executable code for forming an initial union set that includes a first record of hardware and software platform information;

machine executable code for determining for a second record of hardware and software platform information if there are differences in system configuration data associated with said first and second records of hardware and software platform information;

machine executable code for determining for said second record of hardware and software platform information if there are differences in software component data associated with said first and second records of hardware and software platform information; and

machine executable code for adding said second record of hardware and software platform information to said initial union set if any differences are determined in system configuration data or software component data.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 44, wherein said machine executable code for determining differences in software component data includes:

machine executable code for determining differences in named software modules associated with said first and second records of hardware and software platform information; and

machine executable code for determining differences in attributes of a first named software module included in said first and second records of hardware and software platform information.

46- 55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 32, wherein the shared library is one of a dynamic link library and [[an ActiveX Control]] a control library.

57. (Previously Presented) A method executed in a computer system for automatically tracking hardware and software platform usage for a plurality of program executions on a plurality of hardware and software platforms comprising:

enabling collection of one or more records of hardware and software platform information prior to execution of each of said plurality of programs;

executing each of said plurality of programs;

recording, in a central data storage device in response to said enabling, one or more records of hardware and software platform information for said plurality of program executions; and

querying said central data storage device, in accordance with at least one predetermined criteria using said one or more records of hardware and software platform information from said plurality of program executions, to determine at least one of hardware and software platform usage.